

Orioles loyalists wonder if this is the last season they'll see Machado, Jones and Showalter together



KENNETH K. LAM/BALTIMORE SUN
Manny Machado, center left, dunks a bucket of sports drink on teammate Adam Jones after Jones' 11th inning walk-off home run that gave the Orioles a 3-2 victory over the Twins on Opening Day at Camden Yards.

Mixed emotions for fans on Opening Day

BY CHILDS WALKER
The Baltimore Sun

Geordann Schilling could not ignore the subtext Thursday as he prepared to watch another season of Orioles baseball at Camden Yards.

Sure, the Bel Air resident was eager to cheer his team and its rebuilt starting rotation from his vantage behind home plate. But sitting there in his Adam Jones jersey, flanked by his pal, Sean Duggan, in a Manny Machado jersey, Schilling was equally aware that he might be watching the beginning of the end for this version of the Orioles.

"It's kind of on everyone's mind," he said, ticking through the reasons why Jones and Machado might be playing their final opener in orange and black.

The Orioles began 2018 with a 3-2, 11-inning win over the Minnesota Twins before a sellout crowd of 45,469.

But for all the optimism and eagerness inherent to the beginning of a new season, fans and players acknowledged the competing reality that many of the team's key figures — from Machado to Jones to manager Buck Showalter — are entering the final season of their contracts.

These men brought hope to Baltimore baseball fans after a generation of relentless losing, and it's possible, even likely, they won't all be together at this time next year.



LLOYD FOX/BALTIMORE SUN
Landon Myers, 3, of Owings Mills with his mother, Brandy Myers, was ready to catch a foul ball as they entered Oriole Park for Opening Day.

"Those three, I think they represent us quite a bit," said Michael Privitera of Gaithersburg, who took a rare day off from teaching to bring his daughter to her first Orioles game. "All of them have been such great ambassadors. ... It's something you always remember — I hope she does — being here. But there's definitely a See **ORIOLES**, page 8

Appeals court orders retrial in 'Serial' case

Podcast's Adnan Syed was convicted in 1999 killing

BY KEVIN RECTOR
AND JUSTIN FENTON
The Baltimore Sun

Maryland's second-highest court ruled Thursday that "Serial" podcast subject Adnan Syed should receive a new trial in the killing of Woodlawn High School classmate Hae Min Lee.

The Court of Special Appeals' opinion upheld a lower court's decision to overturn Syed's 2000 conviction in the case, sending it back to Circuit Court for a retrial there.

The opinion, which found Syed's previous counsel had failed him in deciding not to call a key alibi witness at his trial two decades ago, could be appealed to the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. That would mean many more months before Syed finds out whether his conviction will



Adnan Syed



Hae Min Lee

remain or if he will get a new trial.

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh's office, which represents the state in the case, said that it is "currently reviewing today's decision to determine next steps," including whether to appeal. It has 30 days to do so.

C. Justin Brown, Syed's attorney, called the higher court's opinion "incredible."

"It's been a really long wait, and that's been hard and it's been stressful, obviously not just for us but for Adnan, who's now See **RETRIAL**, page 10

Oaks enters guilty plea

Ex-senator admits to details of federal corruption charges

BY IAN DUNCAN
AND JESSICA ANDERSON
The Baltimore Sun

Longtime Baltimore legislator Nathaniel T. Oaks pleaded guilty Thursday to federal corruption charges — just hours after the Democrat formally resigned his Senate seat in the Maryland General Assembly.

Oaks, 71, appeared in U.S. District Court in Baltimore with his lawyers for an hourlong hearing and admitted to a pair of felony fraud offenses.

Kathleen Gavin, the top federal corruption prosecutor in Maryland, recited a 17-page statement of facts describing how the former lawmaker took \$15,300 in payments in exchange for aiding an FBI informant posing as an out-of-town developer.

When Gavin was done, Judge Richard D. Bennett asked Oaks if he had indeed committed the crimes. "Yes," Oaks replied.

The rapid turn of events — Oaks resigning and pleading guilty in the same morning — brought an abrupt end to a case that was weeks away from trial.

Sentencing has been scheduled for July 17. Federal guidelines call for Oaks to receive eight to 10 years in prison. As part of the plea agreement, eight other charges against Oaks will be dropped.

Stephen Schenning, the acting U.S. attorney for Maryland, said federal prosecutors and the FBI are on the lookout for See **OAKS**, page 13



Nathaniel Oaks

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Maryland's history of corruption
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate defies Hogan, passes bill for school construction

Governor promises a veto; Democrats may override

BY SCOTT DANCE
The Baltimore Sun

The Maryland Senate voted Thursday to overhaul the way the state approves hundreds of millions of dollars for school construction projects, ending a three-day legislative whirlwind that provoked Gov. Larry Hogan and Comptroller Peter Franchot to direct accusations of cronyism at the legislature.

After fending off a Republican filibuster, the Democratic-controlled chamber approved the bill by a 29-14 vote, enough to override Hogan's promised veto. The House of Delegates, which crafted the proposal and attached it to legislation that contains popular school construction reforms, passed the bill Tuesday.

Lawmakers delivered the bill to Hogan hours after its passage Thursday afternoon. He has 10 days to veto or sign it, giving the legislature at least two days to override a veto before its annual session ends April 9.

The measure would empower a commis- See **SCHOOLS**, page 10

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

MARYLAND

'THE BEST GIRL': Friends and family members of Jaelyn Willey, who was fatally shot at Great Mills High School, recall her prowess at swimming, her chocolate-chip cookies, her affection for her siblings, and the sweetness of her temper. **NEWS PG 2**

NATION & WORLD

KOREAN SUMMIT: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27, the South announced Thursday after the nations agreed on a rare summit that could address the standoff over the North's nuclear program. **NEWS G 4**

TODAY'S WEATHER

CLOUDY, WITH RAIN

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Sunny on Saturday **SPORTS PG 16**

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